

Bernhard Knollenberg
Box 1603a, Yale Station
New Haven, Conn.

Exp. A 12-7-41

America First BULLETIN

Official Publication, America First Committee, New York Chapter, Inc.

VOL. I. NO. 6

NEW YORK CITY, JULY 5, 1941

Published each Saturday by The A. F. C. Bulletin, 515 Madison Ave., New York City, N. Y. By Subscription, Three Months for 50 Cents. Five Cents Per Copy

PEACE

On Sunday night former President Herbert Hoover talked to the American people. His address, calm, deliberate, objective, was a strong presentation of the case for staying out of war. But he made one statement which ought to be painted all over the walls of the House and Senate in Washington. He said that "we are not in the war." We cannot be in the war until Congress declares war, since the power to go to war is lodged by the Constitution in the Congress.

Then he made this profound remark: It is the duty of Congress, he declared, to see to it that we do not get into the war until it declares war.

Gravity of Advice Obvious

The gravity of that advice is obvious. This is a constitutional republic. No official has any powers not granted to him by the Constitution or the laws made under it. Yet the very men who are yelling for America to go to war to erect democracy all over the world are yelling with equal violence for America to tear up its own republican constitution, since they demand that the President, without authorization from Congress, hurl this nation into actual war at once.

The Gallup poll—as well as others—shows that the nation does not favor going to war. But it also shows that 56 per cent of the people insist that no war be declared until the people have been consulted in a national referendum.

War Makers Disregard Congress

But the Knoxes, Stimson, the war committees clamor with increasing vehemence for war, not only without consulting the people, not only in defiance of their wishes, but without even consulting Congress.

The truth about the matter is quite plain. Many of these men, in positions of power, have got themselves so implicated in the war spirit and adventure that they no longer think in terms of

(Continued on page 2)

America First Urges Referendum Asks Members to Back Nationwide Campaign

The America First Committee has added to its platform a plank advocating an Advisory Referendum on the question of war or peace.

Declaring that the Russo-German war adds new facts to our international situation upon which the people heretofore have not been consulted, General Robert E. Wood, National Chairman of the America First Committee announced this week the beginning of a 48 state campaign in support of an Advisory War Referendum Resolution. Such a resolution was recently introduced in Congress by six senators: D. Worth Clark, La Follette, Capper, Wheeler, Shipstead, and Nye.

Outgrowth of Resolution

The campaign for referendum is an outgrowth of a resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee of the AFC which recalled that in the last election the people had no opportunity to vote on the question of war or peace. The resolution further stated that in a democracy the will of the people should determine the policy of the Government and that various tests of public opinion already indicate that the majority of people favor the holding of a referendum.

It was emphasized that the Advisory Referendum is in full accord with the principle of representative democracy because Congress would still be taking action and would not be bound by the results of the poll.

Cites Precedents

Congress would merely be acting with full knowledge of the will of the people. The Committee cited as precedents for such a vote, the recent Department of Agriculture referendums on crop control.

The Advisory War Referendum Resolution has been referred to the Senate Foreign Relations

(Continued on page 2)

Join the America First Committee

If you are an American citizen, opposed to Nazism, Fascism and Communism, you can help fight war by joining the America First Committee. Contribute to our work. Distribute our literature. Volunteer your services.

Offices of America First chapters in the metropolitan area are:

Manhattan
NEW YORK CHAPTER
Edwin S. Webster, Jr., Secy.,
515 Madison Ave.

WOMEN'S DIVISION
3 East 47th St.

LABOR AND VETERAN'S DIVISION
1050 Second Ave.

WALL ST. DIVISION
111 Broadway.

Brooklyn
44 Court St.

Bronx
1910 Arthur Ave.
Queens

75-12 Broadway,
Jackson Heights.

Long Island
CENTRAL LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

Mrs. Matthew Mason,
Medford.

FIVE TOWNS CHAPTER
Judge Edgar Treacy,
475 Oxford Road,

Cedarhurst.

FREEPORT CHAPTER

James A. Coveney.

B.B. 10
44-3000

James A. Coveney.

<

On The Peace Front

How the fight "for democracy" goes on in London, as reported in a United Press dispatch:

"Sale of vodka in West End bars advanced 100 percent this week and dance bands have started swinging Volga Boatman songs. Red neckties are in good taste again, and the Daily Mirror has assured Russia that 'we are not a nation entirely composed of elderly bankers and bourgeois merchants oppressing a 'proletariat' which has nothing to lose but its chain!'

The Catholic War Veterans, Inc., this week petitioned President Roosevelt not to give military or economic aid under the Lend-Lease Act to "Godless Russia, whose totalitarian form of government and Godless ideology is entirely incompatible to democratic ideals."

Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of the New York Times and recognized as one of the foremost writers on military affairs in the country, completely explodes the theory that Hitler can invade America in an article in the July issue of the Reader's Digest.

"Invasion of America"—which interventionists use as one of the main scares to pull the country into war—is said by Mr. Baldwin to be a "strategically absurdity." The military problem of setting up an export base at Dakar, then transporting men and equipment to Brazil, and setting up another huge base in the Brazilian jungle, "makes the invasion of Britain seem child's play."

The same enormous problems that Germany would face in invading America would be ours if we entered upon the adventure of seizing Dakar, Mr. Baldwin points out. He urges that if we take the right measures we can easily defend this hemisphere from any coalition of powers and we need fear no evil.

The Bronx County Chapter announces that it has recently opened seven additional units in its territory, making a total of fourteen which are now operating in addition to the chapter headquarters at 1910 Arthur Avenue.

The Bronx chapter was officially opened on June 7, and the addition of fourteen units in that time means it has been adding them at the rate of about one every two days.

American army officers continue to announce that our military forces still have a long, long way to go before they will be properly trained to engage successfully in modern warfare. The latest officer to testify on this score is Lieut.-Gen. Ben Lear, commander of the Second Army.

After watching a review of tactical exercises, Gen. Lear said this week that the army's chain of command was particularly weak—"weak to the extent that if this condition is allowed to continue, the chain, at its weakest link, will break whenever an emergency imposes a heavy load."

Removal from office of Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox was called for on the floor of the Senate this week by Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana.

Senator Wheeler charged Knox with intemperance and irresponsibility after the Secretary had urged before the Conference of Governors that the American naval forces be dispatched forthwith to sink German submarines on sight.

Since this would be an act of war carried out without the approval of Congress—and Congress alone has the power to declare war—Knox was urging an unconstitutional act, Senator Wheeler said.

A Week's Quotes

SENATOR WALTER GEORGE of Georgia, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "I have confidence that if the President feels he has to make a final and further commitment he will come back so that the American people can make a decision in the usual American way through the representatives of the people.

"I have not accepted the fatalistic view that the country will be involved in war."

REPRESENTATIVE CLIFTON A. WOODRUM of Virginia:

"The idea of this country going off now and trying to settle the conflicting emotions and ideologies of Europe to me is ridiculous even if we were prepared to do so, and we are not. There are many reasons why we should not go abroad. It is only necessary to state one and that is that we have not the troops or equipment."

JOHN T. FLYNN: "We are told that since Stalin will be fighting on our side, we should accept his aid. We do not need any aid from Stalin. We are not at war. Nobody is attacking us. But he is at war. He is being invaded. He is and not us who needs aid. And the problem is not whether we accept aid from Stalin, but whether we will give aid to him. Yet that is what we are being asked to do—to bleed ourselves white with taxation, to disrupt our whole economic system, to plunge ourselves into bankruptcy and send millions of men to battle to win a war whose peace terms will have to satisfy Communist Russia and which will leave the world just where it was when the war started."

SENATOR ROBERT A. TAFT of Ohio:

"The word 'democracy' threatens to become a fetish without real meaning. It has almost come to mean any nation on our side. From including China, where no man was ever elected to office, and Greece and Brazil, ruled unquestionably by dictators, it has almost been brought to include Russia, under the most ruthless dictator of them all."

"If we let a name, a political slogan, direct our whole American policy, without constantly considering the purpose of that slogan, we are not going long to remain a democracy ourselves."

making poll and to mark the cards which they receive and return them without delay to the News. The cards are not to be signed so that no man need fear that his vote will become known. It will be a strictly secret ballot.

The first returns are in and reveal heavy majorities for the anti-war sentiment. We do not publish them as returns are copyrighted by the News. Mr. Webster has urged all members of America First to follow the results of the poll in the News.

Moreover, the War Committee does not seem to care what the American people believe. It wants war—and is going to have it whether the people want it or not.

The News will send out 696,000 post cards to every county in the State. There are 6,900,000 names on the voting lists of the State. It has obtained the voting lists and will send a postcard to every tenth name. It believes the result will be a complete reflection of the state's opinion.

Mr. Edwin S. Webster, Jr., executive secretary of the New York Chapter of America First, has issued a call to all persons against war to watch this record

various war committees—many of them former British subjects—are clamoring for immediate war. But they are not public servants. The fact that these people want war in spite of the overwhelming opposition of the people is an evidence of the fact that they could not care about the people. Indeed, Senator Wheeler has charged that the Navy under Knox has already begun to shoot. And Pearson and Allen, interventionist columnists, also charged this week that the Navy has been convoying British ships and has fired on German submarines at least twice and probably sunk one. And this despite the President's assurance that there would be no convoying, made only a few weeks ago. Senator Wheeler has demanded an investigation and other senators are demanding the immediate ousting of Knox.

This is all the more shocking in view of the revelations of America's complete unpreparedness to go to war. Up to now these charges of unpreparedness have been made by America First speakers. Now the interventionists themselves are making them.

Former Russian Army Officer Urges U.S. Keep Out Of War

Baron Von Wrangell Sees Conflict a Fight For Power, With Democracy Not Involved

By BARON CHARLES ROKASSOWKI VON WRANGELL
Former Officer of the Imperial Russian Army, Grandson of the Former Governor-General of Finland, and an American Citizen by Choice

Less than two years ago, in August, 1939, two European dictators—Herr Hitler and Comrade Stalin—signed a non-aggression pact. A month later, Poland was partitioned between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.

On November 30, 1939, Soviet Russia invaded Finland. This little Baltic Republic has only about 3½ millions of population. Its soil is poor, its climate very severe, and yet Finland has been the only European country which had paid her debt promptly to us. Finland has been a real democracy.

The overwhelming sympathies of the American people had been on the side of little Finland in her heroic struggle against Communist Russia. Former President Herbert Hoover organized Finnish relief. The U. S. Government extended to Finland a loan of about thirty million dollars. European democracies—Great Britain and France—had promised Finland their active help. Great Britain offered to send to Finland a British Expeditionary Force. Many American volunteers went to Finland to fight the Red invaders. And we all condemned Soviet Russia as a ruthless aggressor.

New York City. He had been a Communist. He was anxious to get to that "paradise" which we call Soviet Russia, and so he went there as a United Press correspondent, and stayed there for eight years.

In his book, Mr. Lyons gives a horrible picture of the Communist "paradise," with all its arrests of thousands of innocent people, with its system of taking hostages, with Concentration Camps of the dreaded Russian G. P. U., with the mass-killings of tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children. On account of the collectivization of Russian farmers in the Ukraine alone, ordered by Stalin, in this granary of Russia in the Winter of 1932-33, more than six millions Russian peasants starved to death!

Russian concentration camps are so large that Mr. Lyons, in a lecture at the Women's Club, New York City, in November, 1939, stated that "all German concentration camps can be put in any single one concentration camp of Soviet Russia."

It is true that Nazi troops occupied Norway, Belgium, Holland, France, Yugoslavia, Greece and other European countries. I have no intention to defend Nazi Germany, but it is obvious that there is no place for the United States of America in the present European brawl!

Our place is at home, on this side of the Atlantic. We have to build our defenses. We have to be so strong that no European Dictator, no foreign Power or combination of Powers, will even attempt to invade this continent.

Our only flag is the Flag with Stars and Stripes!

America First! America forever and always!

Women's Division Sells Committee Banners

Attractive banners of the America First Committee are obtainable at the Poster Dept. of the Women's Division, 3 E. 47th St. Many of these banners were worn by AFC members at the Hartford rally. Ladies' banners and men's arm bands are priced at 25 cents.

If Joseph Stalin has killed about eight millions people, another eight millions had been killed before him, by Lenin and Trotsky, in the name of Communism. Communist Revolution cost Russia more than sixteen millions lives!

There is a book published in this country by the name "Assignment in Utopia," written by Eugene Lyons. Mr. Lyons was born here, on the east side of one.

America First Bulletin

Official Publication of the America First Committee,
New York Chapter, Inc.

Published every Saturday by the A.F.C. Bulletin,
515 Madison Avenue, New York City



Subscription rates: Five cents per copy Three Months, 50¢